1		2	3
8.	Tamil Nadu	Thirunelveli, Coimbatore, Madurai, Chengelpet, Kanyakumari, Tuticorin, Theni, Erode, Dindigul	41
9.	Rajasthan	Chittorgarh, Sikar, Jaisalmer, Barmer, Jodhpur	7
10.	Uttaranchal	Narendranagar	1
11.	West Bengal	South 24 Paraganas	1
12.	Andaman & Nicobar	Nicobar	1
13.	Lakshadweep	Kavarathi	8
	TOTAL		216

India-Japan agreement for development of renewable energy sources

676. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Japan have entered into an agreement for development of renewable energy sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the first meeting of the working group under the above agreement was held in the last week of June, 2007; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Working Group on New and Renewable Energy has been established under the India-Japan Energy Dialogue to coordinate cooperation activities in new and renewable energy.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The first meeting of the Working Group was held on the 28th June, 2007 at New Delhi wherein it was decided that both sides will explore ways and means to further cooperation in the field of new and renewable energy.

Popularizing the non-conventional energy sources

677. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new and renewable energy sources are less popular than the conventional energy sources;

(b) if so, the reactions therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the use of non-conventional energy sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) New and renewable energy has been assuming increasing significance in recent times with the growing concern for the country's energy security and environment. Bulk of the energy needs of the common man come from renewable energy, mainly agro and forest residues as well as animal wastes. Already, over 40 lakh family size biogas plants, about 14 lakh solar photovoltaic systems for lighting and other